

New Jersey.

BRO. HON. FOSTER M. VOORHEES,
GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY.

The 127,000 members of the I.O.F. in Canada, Great Britain and the various jurisdictions in the United States join with their New Jersey brethren in extending greetings and congratulations to Bro. Foster M. Voorhees, of Elizabeth, who has just been elevated to the office of Governor of that great industrial State. These felicitations are peculiarly appropriate from the fact that in our grand Order there is no more loyal and enthusiastic Forester than New Jersey's new Governor.

Bro. Voorhees, who has for a long time been the leader of the Republican party in the State Legislature, and who, it has been conceded, would, at the State election next fall, be elected Governor, has reached that goal a year ahead of time by the



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appointment of Gov. John W. Griggs to the Cabinet position of United States Attorney-General by President McKinley; and, in accordance with the State constitution, Bro. Voorhees, as President of the Senate, became Governor, he taking the oath of office on February 1st. Foster Voorhees' life and character as a man and politician is contained in the following sketch condensed from the *New York Mail and Express* :—

“Foster M. Voorhees, whose recent election as President of the New Jersey Senate makes him executive of the State as successor to John W. Griggs, is a brilliant young orator, lawyer and statesman. He is a native New Jerseyman, and was born November 5, 1856, on a farm in Clinton township, Hunterdon county. At the age of 15 years he was admitted to Rutgers College. He graduated four years later the second honor man of his class, and won the prize for moral philosophy and Greek. In 1889 Voorhees had changed his residence to a dis-

trict that was Democratic by over 3,000; he consented to become his party's standard bearer, and attested his popularity by a triumphant election, over a strong and popular opponent.

“While in the House he was the leader of the minority, and served as such with great distinction, His courtesy and fairness won the admiration and respect of even his opponents.

“At the end of his service in the Assembly he resolved to withdraw from politics because it was encroaching too much on his time and interfering with his law practice. He declined to take the nomination for Senator in 1890 and for Congress in 1892.

“In 1893 there came a call that appealed to his sentiments of patriotism. Pernicious legislation had given over the State to the almost absolute control of trusts, gamblers and the like. A great moral crusade was inaugurated, and in Union county, where two race tracks were in operation, the furor was especially great. The importance of the selection of a strong man was appreciated, and the Republicans and Citizens' Anti-Gambling League turned to Voorhees, who could not resist this appeal of the people, and he accepted the nomination for Senator. He was triumphantly elected.

“His first year in the Senate was characterized by a series of political triumphs, and Senator Voorhees made for himself a record that will live as one of the brightest in the annals of the State. Nearly all the reform measures emanated from and bore the name of the Senator from Union.

“Office grabbing he abhorred, as was clearly evinced by the manner in which he declined to accept the offer of Circuit Court Judge, to which he was appointed for a term of seven years at a salary of \$7,500 a year, and likewise his refusal of the position of Clerk of the Court of Chancery.

“Senator Voorhees is popular with all men. He is courteous, warm-hearted and sympathetic. He has for years been one of the busiest men in New Jersey, but never too much occupied to give the most courteous reception to any one, without distinction as to whether his visitor be the highest in his State or its humblest citizen.”

Governor Voorhees became a beneficiary member of the I.O.F. three years ago, joining—as the 100th member—Court George W. Child, No. 1476, of Elizabeth. Despite the innumerable calls upon his time as a lawyer and prominent politician, Bro. Voorhees has always taken an active interest in Forestry work both in his Subordinate and High Courts, and recently remarked with satisfaction that he was pleased to learn that his decision, given as Chairman of the Committee on Appeals of the High Court, in a case brought before that body, had been sustained by the Supreme Chief Ranger.

It was Brother Voorhees' well-known enthusiasm for the Order, and the fear of his acknowledged influence in the State Legislature, that thwarted two years ago a contemplated attempt by jealous parties to secure legislation detrimental to the I.O.F.

Governor Voorhees' estimation of the I.O.F. is best conveyed in the following paragraph from a letter of introduction given to Bro. W. T. Bingham, D.S.C.R., addressed to the Governor's brother, urging the latter to assist in forming a court in their native village :

“You may recall our conversation with reference to the Independent Order of Foresters and my membership therein. It is a fraternal insur-